

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a communication apparatus for maintaining an established connection between said communication apparatus and a network node of a serving communication network, comprising the steps of:

receiving an acceptance message from said network node in response to a request message relating to a first procedure transmitted to said network node;

determining whether any request relating to a second procedure is pending; and,

transmitting to said network node, if any request is pending when said acceptance message is received, a maintaining request for maintaining said connection, wherein the step of transmitting said maintaining request is executed if the pending request is received after the request relating to the first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message is received.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the maintaining request is incorporated into a response message, which is transmitted in response to receiving said acceptance message.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the response message is an acknowledgement message.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of maintaining said established connection until the connection is no longer in use.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the

established connection is a packet switched or a circuit switched signaling connection.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is comprised in a mobility management protocol of a wireless communication interface of the electronic communication apparatus, and wherein a mobility management unit handles the signaling to the network node.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and second procedures are mobility management procedures.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the maintaining request is a Follow-On Request (FOR).

10. (Previously Presented) A method in a communication network node for maintaining a signal connection between said network node and a communication apparatus being served, comprising the steps of:

establishing said signal connection;

transmitting to said communication apparatus an acceptance message in response to receiving from said communication apparatus a request relating to a specific first procedure;

maintaining the signal connection for a predetermined period of time after the acceptance message is transmitted; and,

further maintaining the connection if a maintaining request is received from said communication apparatus within said predetermined period of time, said maintaining request associated with a second procedure initiated after said request relating to said first procedure was transmitted.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

receiving the maintaining request, and in response thereto maintaining the established connection until the connection is no longer in use.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the acceptance message comprises information requiring an acknowledgement message, the method further comprises the step of receiving the acknowledgement message, and determining whether said acknowledgement message comprises the maintaining request.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the established connection is a packet switched or a circuit switched signaling connection.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the method is comprised in a mobility management protocol of a wireless interface of the communication network, and wherein a mobility management unit handles the signaling to the communication apparatus (10).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the specific procedure is a mobility management procedure.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the maintaining request is a Follow-On Request (FOR).

17. (Currently Amended) A control device for a communication apparatus for maintaining an established connection to a communication network, the control device being adapted to issue a request to maintain said connection, comprising:

receiver means arranged to receive an acceptance message in response to transmitting a request relating to a first procedure; and,

issuing means arranged to issue, if any request relating to a second procedure is pending when said acceptance message is received, a maintaining request for maintaining said connection, wherein said issuing means is arranged to issue said maintaining request if the pending request is received after the request relating to the

first procedure is transmitted and before said acceptance message is received.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented) The control device according to claim 17, wherein said issuing means is arranged to incorporate the maintaining request into a response message, and arranged to issue said response message in response to receiving said acceptance message.

20. (Original) The control device according to claim 19, wherein the response message is an acknowledgement message.

21. (Previously Presented) The control device according to claim 17, comprising a memory for storing a mobility management protocol of a wireless communication interface, according to which the requests are transmitted, and the acceptance message is received.

22-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A control device for a network node for maintaining a signal connection to a communication apparatus, the control device being adapted to issue an acceptance message in response to a request relating to a specific first procedure, the control device comprising:

an issuing means arranged to issue the acceptance message in response to receiving the request from the communication apparatus; [[and]]

a waiting means arranged to wait maintain the signal connection for a predetermined period of time after the acceptance message is transmitted to the communication apparatus;

wherein the waiting means is arranged to further wait if a maintaining request is received from the communication apparatus within said predetermined period of time,

said maintaining request associated with a second procedure initiated after said request relating to said first procedure was transmitted.

26. (Original) The control device according to claim 25, wherein said waiting means is arranged to wait until the second period of time ends, which is when the connection is no longer in use.

27. (Previously Presented) The control device according to claim 25, wherein said issuing means is arranged to incorporate into the acceptance message information that requires an acknowledgement message.

28. (Previously Presented) The control device according to claim 25, wherein said waiting means is arranged to determine whether a received response message comprises a request to maintain the connection, and if so maintain said connection.

29. (Previously Presented) The control device according to claim 25, comprising a memory for storing a mobility management protocol of a wireless communication interface, according to which the requests and messages are processed.

30-33. (Cancelled).

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